

CLAIMS

1. A personal safety device including at least one housing containing a quantity of a marking substance, an explosive charge, and a triggering apparatus which is operative to detonate the explosive charge to propel the marking substance from the housing to mark the area surrounding the device.
2. A device according to claim 1 wherein the triggering apparatus is a mechanically actuated apparatus.
3. A device according to claim 2 wherein the triggering apparatus has an ignitor for igniting and thus detonating the explosive charge.
4. A device according to claim 3 wherein the ignitor is actuated by moving one component relative to another component, to produce spark ignition by friction.
5. A device according to claim 4 wherein one or both of the components has a chemically treated surface which reacts as the components are relatively moved, to enhance ignition.
6. A device according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the housing includes a first housing part and a second relatively moveable housing part, movement of the second housing part relative to the first housing part to operate the triggering device.
7. A device according to claim 6 wherein the first housing part is attached in use, to a user or a structure.

8. A device according to claim 6 or claim 7 where dependant upon claim 4 wherein the triggering device includes a cord attached to one or other of the triggering apparatus' relatively moveable components, the one component
5 being moved relative to the other by a user moving the second housing part away from the first housing part to pull on the cord.
9. A device according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the device includes a guard which conceals or otherwise guards the triggering
10 apparatus against accidental actuation.
10. A device according to claim 9 where dependant upon claim 6 wherein the guard includes a slidable or otherwise moveable or removable part, which in normal use, prevents the housing parts being relatively moved and hence
15 preventing the triggering apparatus being actuated.
11. A device according to claim 9 or claim 10 wherein the guard is readily moveable or removable in preparation for operation of the device, with minimal dextrous ability.
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12. A device according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the marking substance is a generally harmless substance.
13. A device according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the
25 marking substance includes a highly staining and difficult to remove dye
14. A device according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the marking substance includes material which is not visible in the visual spectrum.

15. A device according to claim 14 wherein the marking substance includes a fluorescent compound which is detectable under UV wavelength light; or a trace material detectable by chromatography, X-ray fluorescence, or other
5 otherwise by spectroscopy.

16. A device according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the marking substance includes a material with a unique identifier.

10 17. A device according to claim 16 wherein the material contains a unique chemical identifier such as DNA, or a chemically coded taggant.

18. A device according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the device includes a transmitter for transmitting a distress signal when the device
15 is operated by actuating the triggering apparatus.

19. A device according to claim 18 wherein the device includes a receiver to receive a signal from a remote location, the receiver being operable in response, to actuate the transmitter to transmit the distress signal.

20 20. A device according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the device includes a re-chargeable or replaceable power pack.

21. A personal safety device substantially as hereinbefore described and/or
25 as shown in the accompanying drawings.

22. A personal safety system including a personal safety device including at least one housing containing a transceiver, the transceiver being operable to transmit a distress signal, the system further including a remote receiver to

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receive the transmitted distress signal, and a remote transmitter for transmitting an actuating signal to the personal safety device, the transceiver receiving the remotely transmitted actuating signal and transmitting the distress signal in response.

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23. A system according to claim 22 wherein the personal safety device includes any of the features of any one of claims 1 to 21.

24. A system according to claim 22 or claim 23 wherein the system includes
10 a plurality of remote receivers, so that the distress signal may be received by a receiver in range and used to locate the personal safety device.

25. A personal safety system substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and/or as shown in the accompanying drawings.

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26. Any novel feature or novel combination of features described herein and/or as shown in the accompanying drawings.